

Dear Friend,

It is always important for me to know your opinions about the many issues that will be considered by the General Assembly. It is even more important this year when one of those issues is Governor Daniel's proposal to convert State Road 37 into a limited-access toll road and turn it over to a private company to pay for the I-69 extension.

During the 2005 legislative session, I voted for several initiatives that were supported by both Republicans and Democrats—increased economic development efforts, a streamlined approach to regulation of small businesses, more case-workers on the job to combat child abuse and legislation to make it harder to obtain the key ingredients needed to produce the drug methamphetamine.



Rep. Pierce

The new administration and the Republican majority in both the House and Senate also enacted several controversial bills. The new state budget has resulted in large property tax increases across Indiana while forcing many local school corporations to slash personnel and programs.

The Governor has used his executive powers to turn over various government operations to private companies and quadruple logging in our state forests. He has also announced plans to place one of our state prisons in the hands of private management.

It's vital for members of the General Assembly to play an active role in evaluating whether the Governor's executive actions and legislative proposals are truly in the best interest of Indiana residents. I encourage you to complete the survey in this legislative preview or if you prefer, you can complete the survey on line at www.in.gov/H61.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Matt Pierce

Matt Pierce
State Representative
District 61

Pierce Announces his
Legislative Agenda

In 2006, the General Assembly will meet for a "short session" that will last from January 4th to March 14th. This leaves just a few short months to consider hundreds of legislative proposals. Each member can introduce no more than five bills during the short session.

My legislative agenda for 2006 includes:

Shifting to Sustainable Energy. Indiana and our nation must move away from its dependence on foreign oil and increasingly expensive natural gas. My bill would create a sustainable energy institute to boost the use of sustainable and renewable forms of energy. By promoting alternative forms of energy and energy efficiency, consumers will save money in the long run through less consumption and avoiding the cost of paying for new electric power plants. This initiative can also help expand Indiana's economy by creating new energy-related jobs.



Public Participation in State Forest Management. Governor Daniels recently announced that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would quadruple logging in Indiana's state forests, including clear cutting sections of the forest. DNR made this decision with little public input and without the proper environmental studies. My bill would ensure the public can participate in decisions about how our forests are managed. DNR would have to accept public comments and hold a public hearing on any proposed forest plan. The bill would also make clear that DNR must follow the Indiana Environmental Policy Act to ensure its decisions are environmentally sound.

Privacy Rights for Tenants. Many people are unaware that current law allows a landlord to enter a renter's residence at any time without any warning. I will reintroduce legislation that would grant renter's the same privacy rights as people who own their own homes. Landlords would have to give renters one day's notice before entering a rental property unless immediate entry was necessary to save life or property.



Volunteering for the Page Program

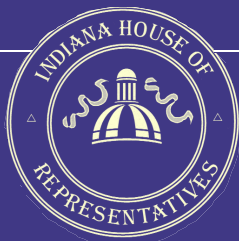
Serving as a page allows any student age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a first-hand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as pages. Interested students may call me at 800-382-9842 or email me at H61@in.gov with two dates when they could come to the statehouse between early January and March 14th. I recommend you apply as soon as possible since space is limited for the page program.



2006 Legislative Survey

The following questions are about issues that may be considered during the upcoming legislative session. I value your thoughts, and I hope you will take the time to complete the survey and return it to me by mail or online at www.in.gov/H61. Two sets of responses are provided so a second person in your household may respond.

	First person <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	Second person <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
1. Should child welfare programs be funded by the state general fund rather than local property taxes?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
2. Should state tax dollars be given to parents through vouchers to pay for tuition at private or parochial schools?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
3. Should Indiana residents be allowed to have wine shipped directly to their homes rather than being required to purchase the wine from a local retailer?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
4. Should the ISTEP test for public school students be moved from the Fall to the Spring?	<input type="checkbox"/> fall <input type="checkbox"/> spring <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> fall <input type="checkbox"/> spring <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
5. Should a statewide referendum be placed on the 2006 November ballot to determine whether most residents want Indiana to be in the Central time zone with Chicago or the Eastern time zone with New York?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
6. Should the Department of Natural Resources consider transferring operation of state park inns to a private corporation?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
7. Should video gaming machines (better known as "cherry masters") be allowed in bars and restaurants, with the state keeping a share of the proceeds?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
8. Governor Daniels believes one way to reduce education costs is to consolidate school corporations. Would you support legislation to require schools to consolidate?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
9. Should local telephone companies be deregulated so they can set rates without approval of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion
10. Do you agree with the General Assembly's decision to enact the Governor's request to cap the amount of state tax dollars that can be used to limit property tax increases?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> no opinion



Representative Matt Pierce

2006 Legislative Preview and Survey

Legislative Priorities:

- ☒ Improving Indiana's Economy
- ☒ Increasing Support for Education
- ☒ Fighting High Energy Costs
- ☒ Limiting Property Tax increases
- ☒ protecting the environment



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